best be understood from the following description of the preferred embodiment of the present invention when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Unless specifically noted, it is intended that the words and phrases in the specification and claims be given the ordinary and accustomed meaning to those of ordinary skill in the applicable art or arts. If any

5   other meaning is intended, the specification will specifically state that a special meaning is being applied to a word or phrase. Likewise, the use of the words "function" or "means" in the Description of Preferred Embodiments is not intended to indicate a desire to invoke the special provision of 35 US.C. § 112, paragraph 6 to define the invention. To the contrary, if the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6, are sought to be invoked to define the invention(s),

10   the claims will specifically state the phrases "means for" or "step for" and a function, without also reciting in such phrases any structure, material, or act in support of the function. Even when the claims recite a "means for" or "step for" performing a function, if they also recite any structure, material or acts in support of that means of step, then the intention is not to invoke the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 6. Moreover, even if the provisions of 35 U.S.C.

15   §112, paragraph 6, are invoked to define the inventions, it is intended that the inventions not be limited only to the specific structure, material or acts that are described in the preferred embodiments, but in addition, include any and all structures, materials or acts that perform the claimed function, along with any and all known or later-developed equivalent structures, materials or acts for performing the claimed function.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration describing the integrated system for high-throughput analysis of biomolecules from biological media comprising microcolumns, derivatized mass spectrometer targets, mass spectrometers capable of multi-sample input and robotics with

25   processing/data analysis interactive database software that accomplish the high throughput analysis. The system may comprise various robotically integrated workstations: Pre-station, Loading initialization station with sample introduction/chemical reservoirs, Use station, Loading Station, Mass spectrometer, Data analysis software, Data base, Post-station. The use station is further comprised of

30   microcolumn-integrated robotics (wherein either the robot head moves to complementary use positions or the use positions move, e.g. as a carousel, about a stationary robot head) composed of multiple positions for chemical modification, microcolumn functionalization, biofluids analysis and transfer.